

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00  
USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
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O P 071240Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2128

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY

AMCONSUL KARACHI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL LAHORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJ: POLITICAL SITUATION: FURTHER PROGRESS IN TALKS

REF: ISLAMABAD 5806

1. SUMMARY: NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PNA AND THE GOVERNMENT  
CONTINUE TO PROCEED SMOOTHLY, WITH BOTH SIDES EXPRESSING  
DETERMINATION TO COME TO A SETTLEMENT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.  
BHUTTO PRESENTED TWO FORMULAS AT THE JUNE 6 SESSION OF  
THE TALKS, WHICH THE OPPOSITION HAS AGREED TO STUDY.

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FURTHER EXCHANGES TOOK PLACE REGARDING THE RELEASE OF  
PRISONERS AND ALLEGED MALTREATMENT OF DETENUS. PPP  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS BACK BHUTTO IN NEGOTIATIONS.  
THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION HAS STABILIZED, PROMPTING  
THE GOVERNMENT TO LIFT CURFEW IN HYDERABAD AND KARACHI.  
AS SIGNS BEGIN TO PROLIFERATE THAT NEW ELECTIONS MAY BE  
HELD, ASGHAR KHAN TAKES TO THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL. END SUMMARY.

2. NEGOTIATIONS: THE SECOND DAY OF TALKS ENDED ON AN UPBEAT NOTE JUNE 6 AS BOTH SIDES ANNOUNCED THAT BHUTTO HAD OFFERED TWO FORMULAS TO DEAL WITH "THE BASIC ISSUE." NO CONTENTS WERE REVEALED, BUT IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED THAT THEY DEAL WITH ELECTIONS. ACCORDING TO PNA LEADER PROFESSOR GHAFOOR, AT LEAST ONE OF THE FORMULAS COULD BE ACCEPTABLE "ALONG WITH NECESSARY DETAILS." IF BHUTTO'S CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE CONTINUES, GHAFOOR TOLD NEWSMEN, THIS IMPORTANT POLITICAL ISSUE COULD BE SETTLED TOMORROW WHEN TALKS ARE SCHEDULED.

3. REGARDING THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS, THE GOVERNMENT MAINTAINED THAT 2,000 PERSONS HAVE BEEN LET OUT OF JAIL SINCE JUNE 3. NOT MORE THAN 11,000 PRISONERS HAVE BEEN HELD AT ANY ONE TIME, ACCORDING TO FINANCE MINISTER AND BHUTTO CONFIDANT HAFEEZ PIRZADA, SUBSTANTIALLY LESS THAN THE 100,000 THE OPPOSITION HAS BEEN CLAIMING. TO HELP CLEAR UP THIS POINT, PNA NEGOTIATORS HAVE ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLY A COMPLETE LIST OF DETENUS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS. PROFESSOR GHAFOOR MADE IT CLEAR IN A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING THE TALKS THAT THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS REMAINS AN IMPORTANT ISSUE. IF THEY ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY FREED, HE WARNED, THE NEGOTIATIONS COULD RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES. THE GOVERNMENT AGREED TO REDRESS GRIEVANCES ABOUT ALLEGED MALTREATMENT OF PRISONERS AS SOON AS THE NECESSARY INQUIRIES COULD BE MADE.

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4. PPP SUPPORT: FOLLOWING THE OPENING OF THE "BUDGET SESSION" OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON JUNE 6, THE PPP PARLIAMENTARY PARTY MET FOR TWO HOURS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND ASSURED HIM OF THEIR FULL SUPPORT. BHUTTO REPORTEDLY BRIEFED THEM ABOUT THE NEGOTIATIONS AND SOUGHT THEIR ADVICE. ACCORDING TO PPP INFORMATION SECRETARY MAULANA KAUSAR NIAZI, THE PARLIAMENTARIANS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN TAKEN SO FAR AND SAID THEY WOULD BACK ANY NEW INITIATIVE THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT HAVE TO MAKE IN THE FUTURE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. CURFEW LIFTED: WITH NO REPORTS OF VIOLENCE ANYWHERE IN HYDERABAD AND KARACHI, MARTIAL LAW AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED THAT CURFEW WOULD BE LIFTED COMPLETELY ON JUNE 6, THE FIRST TIME IN MORE THAN SIX WEEKS THAT CURFEW HAS NOT BEEN IMPOSED. ELSEWHERE IN SINDH, THE SITUATION REPORTEDLY REMAINS CALM AND PEACEFUL. SIMILAR CONDITIONS ARE SAID TO PREVAIL THROUGHOUT THE REST OF THE COUNTRY.

6. ASGHAR ON THE HUSTINGS: ADDRESSING A GROUP OF WOMEN WORKERS AT HIS PARTY HEADQUARTERS IN RAWALPINDI ON JUNE 6, PNA LEADER ASGHAR KHAN SAID HE KNOWS THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AGAIN, BUT WONDERED HOW THEY CAN BE FREELY CONDUCTED IF BHUTTO REMAINS IN POWER. HE CLAIMED THAT THE PNA AGREED TO TALK TO BHUTTO BECAUSE THE SAUDIS HAVE GUARANTEED THAT WHATEVER SETTLEMENT IS REACHED WILL BE FAIRLY IMPLEMENTED. TO HELP INSURE THAT THERE IS NO INTERFERENCE IN ANY FUTURE ELECTIONS, HE PROPOSED THAT THE GOVERNMENT CONSULT THE PNA BEFORE APPOINTING TOP POLICE AND CIVIL OFFICIALS, INCLUDING GOVERNORS AND MEMBERS OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION. HE ALSO URGED THAT THE POLICE AND FEDERAL SECURITY FORCE BE BARRED FROM PLAYING ANY ROLE DURING ELECTIONS. IF THERE IS ANY CHANCE OF RIGGING IN FRESH ELECTIONS, HE WARNED, THE PNA WOULD REFUSE TO TAKE PART. HOWEVER, HE SAID THE OPPOSITION WOULD RECOGNIZE

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ANY GOVERNMENT THAT COMES IN THROUGH FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS. HE INFORMED PARTY WORKERS THAT HE WOULD BEGIN A "MEET THE PEOPLE" CAMPAIGN AND TOUR VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. THE PPP, HE CLAIMED, HAS ALREADY STARTED TO ORGANIZE FOR THE NEXT ELECTIONS. (PPP SOURCES IN ISLAMABAD CONFIRM THAT THIS IS TRUE.)

7. OUTLOOK: MORE AND MORE IN ISLAMABAD THERE IS TALK OF ELECTIONS. WHILE IT IS NOT CERTAIN WHEN THEY MIGHT BE HELD, IT IS WIDELY EXPECTED THAT BHUTTO'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PNA, IF SUCCESSFUL, WILL RESULT IN A NEW ELECTION FORMULA. NEARLY ALL MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL PRESS ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT THIS WILL BE THE OUTCOME, A FEELING SHARED BY MANY PPP CONTACTS. "GUARDED OPTIMISM" HAS TURNED TO "OPTIMISM" OVER THE PAST TWO DAYS, AND MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY ARE MORE SANGUINE. CONSIDERING THE HISTORY OF MISTRUST ON BOTH SIDES, HOWEVER, AND THE DETAILS THAT REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT, NO ONE IS YET OPENING THE CHAMPAGNE BOTTLES (EVEN IF IT WERE NOT BANNED).

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